


AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

 [0041] In order to permit a defined tilting of the steering wheel-end, first section 41 of the support column 4 and hence also of the steering wheel 1 and the additional sub-assembly 6 with the airbag module 7 in a pre-determinable direction K, the support column 4, in the area of the transition from the first section 41 to the second section 42, has a notch 47 and an expansion-compression area ~~49~~ 47 arranged opposite the notch 47, which is formed by an especially expandable and compressible section of material. This combination of a notch 47 with an expansion-compression area means that in a frontal impact of an occupant against the steering wheel 1 or the airbag 73 deploying out of the module 7, the first section 41 of the support column tilts in such a way that the steering wheel rim 11 extends in a plane lying essentially perpendicular to the vehicle longitudinal direction x. In other words, the steering wheel rim 11, which is initially situated in a plane running obliquely to the vehicle longitudinal direction x, tilts into a plane that lies essentially perpendicular to the vehicle longitudinal direction x.